

1903.

Medical Officer's Report.

In presenting the Annual Report of the Ringwood Rural Sanitary District for the past year I think the general health of the District has been fairly good considering the death rate was 14.3 per 1000 compared with 12.5 for the previous year.

The deaths were distributed as follows:-

Ringwood	63
Burley	11
Broomy	6
Bellingham	5
Harbridge	4
Isley	1
Workhouse	10

There were 7 deaths under 1 year, and 41 of 65 and upwards

Amongst the infectious diseases there was no death out of 13 cases notified to the Council

During the year there were notified

3	cases of Typhoid
4	" Scarlatina
3	" Erysipelas
3	" Diphtheria

There have been many cases of bad throats accompanied with abdominal pains and a temperature, which I think could be accounted for by the excessive floods which kept refuse on the surface, made dwellings damp and affected wells.

The floods were excessive owing to the river

not being cleaned or attended to consequently there was no outlet for the water which soaked back into wells contaminating them.

The Sanitary condition of the District is good, though in the Town of Ringwood some of the old dwellings need much attention from the owners to make them more healthy abodes.

The sewerage and drainage are good, there having been a new waste water drain laid down through the Nursery Road during the year, which completes the system of drainage for the Town of Ringwood. The earth closet system has been carried out and several cesspools done away with.

The water supply throughout the District is fairly good, though in the Town of Ringwood it has proved liable to serious contamination during heavy rains and I think it would be advisable for the Council to consider the matter of protecting the water supply by enforcing the river to be kept cleared and considering the question of a main water supply for the Town.

Numerous samples of water have been tested during the year for new buildings and most of them proved good. Samples from wells on the south side of the Town of Ringwood during the floods were found on analysis to contain organic matter.

The Slaughterhouses, Dairies, Cowsheds, milkshops, Bakehouses and Factories are in order and meet with the requirements of the Public Health Act. Though in some instances amongst Dairy farms and Cowsheds there is room for improvement in the drainage of the yards and sheds.

For infectious diseases notified to the Council there is still no place to remove them to and

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I think the Council might consider how and where to establish a house for the purpose.

During the past year whilst carrying out a systematic inspection, always accompanied by the Inspector of Nuisances, 266 houses have been visited besides many special visits have been made to houses and premises which were considered as necessary.

Many notices have been served upon owners and others for abatement of nuisances and carrying out sanitary improvements most of which have been complied with.

The Building Bye-laws for the two parishes of Bury and Ringwood which embrace the greater part of the population of the district have been approved and have been in force during the last three months of the year. These laws should prove a great benefit to the district and will I think be a means of securing properly constructed and healthy dwellings for the poorer class.

R. W. Prentice.
Medical Officer of Health
Ringwood
5th February 1904.

